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Security Council

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Letter dated 1 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that under the presidency of Japan, the Security Council plans to hold an open debate at the ministerial level on the theme "Peacebuilding in Africa", under the agenda item "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace", on Thursday, 28 July 2016.

In order to help guide the debate, Japan has prepared a concept note (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Koro **Bessho**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 1 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Open debate of the Security Council
"Peacebuilding in Africa"
July
Concept note

1 July 2016

Background — what makes peace sustainable?

1. The idea of peacebuilding has been advocated to fill a "gaping hole" that post-conflict countries are prone to fall into, as pointed out in the Annan Report in 2005.[1] Many challenges need to be tackled to prevent a relapse into conflict and achieve sustaining peace in post-conflict countries and societies. It is a complex task involving a large number of parties. At the same time, resources directed towards peacebuilding are relatively limited in reality. Therefore, it is important to draw lessons learned from past experiences, to clarify priorities and to develop efficient support systems. Efforts have been made at the United Nations by establishing the Peacebuilding Commission, holding open debates at the Security Council and issuing presidential statements.[2]

2. The report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict,[3] in 2012, refers to "institution-building" as the core of peacebuilding and a priority in producing more resilient States and societies. If the institutions supporting peace and national order are weak or not operating properly, many underlying social hostilities cannot be resolved and the risk of such hostilities rising to the surface tends to increase. It is clear that unless the institutions of each sector are established and the trust of the people is gained, States cannot play their expected role of sustaining peace.

3. In 2015, the Working Group on Lessons Learned of the Peacebuilding Commission deepened consideration of the extension of State authority and the building of political institutions. Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/262, both of which were adopted on 27 April 2016, identified sharing good practices of peacebuilding, including on institution-building, as one of the important roles of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Purpose of the open debate — why talk about Africa?

1. In recent years, many countries in Africa have gained peace and stability and are achieving rapid growth. On the other hand, some countries in the region still face serious challenges toward peacebuilding, for example, intertribal or religious conflict and various issues of socioeconomic development such as high

[1] A/59/2005.
[2] See S/PRST/2010/7, S/PRST/2011/2, S/PRST/2012/29.
[3] A/67/499-S/2012/746.

unemployment rates, poverty, inequality and lack of basic social services. The Security Council deals with various challenges relating to peace and security in Africa every day. Within Africa, some countries tend to suffer more from relapsed or prolonged conflicts and disasters, while the others demonstrate solid economic development. The situations and challenges in Africa are very diverse.

2. This open debate aims to identify the lessons learned and the existing challenges associated with peacebuilding in Africa by sharing experiences and best practices, and to discuss how the international community can support Africa's peacebuilding efforts more effectively and efficiently.

3. Supporting institution-building efforts while calling for greater national ownership by the countries concerned will help lay the foundations for conflict prevention. We expect more effective measures could be found by examining the root causes of lack of resilience and vulnerability from the viewpoint of institution-building and exploring the reasons why some countries are stable while others tend to face recurrent outbreaks or relapses of conflict.

Context — what are the challenges in building institutions?

1. It is assumed that efforts on the following challenges could contribute to peacebuilding in Africa by promoting the restoration and enhancement of national governance based on trust between the State and its citizen. There are many African countries that have already successfully overcome these challenges.

2. It is also necessary to take note of the interlinkages among these challenges as well as the overall national development plan of State-building in relation to institution-building.

1. *Democracy*

Challenges:

- Establishment of electoral systems, including voter registration, ensuring public trust and correcting flaws of institutional operation.
- Guarantee of freedom of the press and expression, including political criticism.
- Building of institutions to eliminate or mitigate potential post-electoral political confrontation among leaders.

2. *National security and law and order*

Challenges:

- Building the capacity of military and police to maintain security and law and order for the communities and combat violent extremism.
- Addressing issues of weak civilian control and correcting disobedience among military and police.
- Addressing issues of impunity and corruption.
- Establishment of a credible justice system that can provide fair judgments to citizens and does not allow intolerance to the opposition.

3. *Local governance*

Challenges:

- Improved coordination between central and local governance and enhanced national integrity.
- Strengthening local administrative systems, including the provision of services from the capital to rural areas and equitable wealth distribution.
- Establishment of border security systems to effectively monitor the flow of people, goods and weapons.

4. *Public administration management system*

Challenges:

- Building the capacity of the civil service in order to achieve proper public administration of residential registration, land tenure, etc.
- Building institutions of law enforcement and public administration to fully fulfil their duties and responsibilities.

5. *Economic and financial structure*

Challenges:

- Establishment of a taxation system to collect domestic revenue for development and self-reliant State administration.
- Institutionalized budget-making processes (formulation, consultation, decision and account settlement), as well as trust in the fair distribution of national budgets.
- Strengthening measures for cooperation with the private sector, industrial development and job creation.

6. *Basic social service system*

Challenges:

- Establishment of basic social services such as water supply and sewerage, garbage collection and public transportation in urban areas.
- Strengthening social systems for education and medical and public health to address epidemic crises such as the Ebola outbreak.

7. *System for dialogue and reconciliation*

Challenges:

- Establishment of opportunity to promote intercommunal dialogue and information-sharing where intertribal and interreligious conflicts exist or are recurring.

Questions for debate

1. What are the high-priority issues that need to be addressed in order to prevent the recurrence of conflicts and to sustain peace in Africa? What are Africa's unique features that we need to take into account when we address these priority issues?

2. What are the examples of successful or failed institution-building efforts (or similar examples seen in supporting other countries)? What are the causes of success or failure?

3. How can we efficiently mobilize and utilize the capacities of existing missions and entities such as Peacekeeping Operations, special political missions, the Peacebuilding Commission and other United Nations agencies and systems (e.g., United Nations country teams, etc.) in the area of institution-building?

4. What are the roles of regional organizations such as the African Union and subregional organizations such as the African Regional Economic Communities in the context of institution-building?

5. What are the roles of women, youth and civil society in efforts towards institution-building in Africa? How can we support in a comprehensive manner Africa's institutional-building efforts (e.g., the use of science technology, human resource development, etc.)?

Meeting format

This open debate will be held at the ministerial level on 28 July 2016, at 10 a.m., in the Security Council Chamber, and will be open to all Member States.

Briefers

1. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (*to be confirmed*)

2. Ambassador Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya (*to be confirmed*)

3. Ambassador Smail Chergui, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security (*to be confirmed*)

Outcome

The President will engage with Security Council members with the view of adopting a presidential statement on the same day.